CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL
2003

AIR

HUL-A- 700

~~SECRET~~
PBSUCCESS / RYBAT

8 MAY 1954

Chief of Station, Guatemala

LINCOLN

INFO: PBSUCCESS, Headquarters

KUGOWN
Black Operation against Jose Manuel FORTUNY Arana

1. Attached is the English original and a Spanish translation of an "Open Letter to the Central Committee of the PGT", denouncing FORTUNY as an "imperialist agent". Please find the name of a PGT member who is on bad personal terms with Subject, preferably an intellectual to whom the contents of this letter could be ascribed, to be signed to the letter. (A rather obscure person, living in one of the more remote towns, with the reputation of a curmudgeon, would seem to be our best bet). If you don't find a suitable name, invent a likely fictitious signature. In either case, the letter should be mailed from somewhere outside Guatemala City, to make any official investigation more difficult.

2. Correct any deviation from the authentic communist party style or other mistakes which you might discover in our Spanish translation. Have the letter re-typed on locally purchased typing paper. Mail the original to the Central Committee, perhaps personally addressed to a member of the Committee who would be likely to discuss the contents with the other members first (rather than pass it on to FORTUNY directly), such as GUTIERREZ. You may also send carbon copies to all individual members of the Central Committee, preferably to their private addresses. In addition, send either carbon copies or photostats of the original to President ARBENZ and selected leading government officials, to suitable newspapers, radio stations, members of parliament, etc.

3. At the same time, pouch to LINCOLN either 10 copies of the letter or the negative of the photostat, together with information when the original will be in the hands of the addressee, so that we may make additional use of it via SHERWOOD and possibly other outlets. (Pouch at the same time a few copies to Headquarters, to save time.)

JEROME C. DUNBAR

JCD/ EFL/ sgw
6 May 1954
Distribution:
2 - GUAT (w/att)
2 - WASH (w/att)
3 - LINC (w/att)

~~SECRET~~
PBSUCCESS/ RYBAT

~~SECRET~~

Carta Abierta para El Comité Central del Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo
7ª Calle 2-22, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Camaradas,

Cuando ustedes fundaron el Partido Comunista de Guatemala hace cuatro años yo fuí uno de los primeros en unirme: habiendo estudiado las grandes obras de Marx y Lenin durante mis años de estudiante y habiendo activamente participado en actividades comunistas estudiantiles en más de un país bajo el glorioso liderato de nuestros camaradas soviéticos en la Juventud Comunista Internacional, yo doy la bienvenida desde el fondo de mi corazón al establecimiento de una rama Guatemalteca del mundialmente conocido partido de Stalin. Me entusiasma la asignación que nuestros camaradas soviéticos han planeado para nosotros haciendo a Guatemala la vanguardia para la liberación de los trabajadores y campesinos de Latino América, y para la lucha revolucionaria en contra de la garra mortal del imperialismo Norte Américano. Yo hice todo lo que pude para ayudar a nuestro partido en esta vital campaña.

Sin embargo, hoy me veo forzado a abandonar el partido y les explicaré francamente mis razones para tomar este grave paso. La primera razón se encuentra en la persona de su Secretario General, Señor José Manuel FORTUNY Arana. Después de lo que me he enterado sobre él, no puedo llamarlo mas camarada.

Se ha preocupado alguien alguna vez de investigar el pasado de FORTUNY, como un partido revolucionario debe de hacerlo aún en el caso del más oscuro de sus miembros? Si ustedes lo han hecho, seguramente habrán encontrado que él estuvo empleado del 1941 al 1942 en la "Sección de la Prensa" de la Legión Británica: como todo comunista sabe, las secciones de la prensa en las embajadas de los países imperialistas no son mas que centros de espionaje levemente disfrazados y las personas que ellos emplean localmente son elegidas para los más nefarios trabajos de espionaje y de subersión y sabotaje en contra de cualquier movimiento revolucionario.

De este trabajo como agente incitador, FORTUNY "adelantó" a un empleo en la Sterling Products Inc., la controladora Norte Américana del monopolio de drogas. Como tantos mercenarios imperialistas, él cambió de un empleo Británico a uno de los Estados Unidos tan pronto se dió cuenta de que los capitalistas Norte Americanos y su gobierno le habían quitado el liderato a los competidores británicos.

En la Sterling Products Inc., el jefe de FORTUNY fué David Corcoran cuyo hermano Thomas fué uno de los confidentes del Presidente Roosevelt -- pero quién mientras tanto se ha convertido en uno de los peores reaccionarios imperialistas. Además, Corcoran es ahora el cerebro que dirige la lucha de la United Fruit Company en contra de la gente de Guatemala y en contra de la reforma agraria que nuestro partido ha patrocinado.

Camaradas, comprenden ustedes ahora porque esta reforma agraria ha marchado tan despacio, porque han habido tantas fieras palabras y tan pocos hechos revolucionarios, porque nuestro café todavía va a los negociantes de café Yanqui, proporcionándoles inmensos beneficios en vez de satisfacer las necesidades fraternales de las gentes de la Unión Soviética? Les ha informado FORTUNY de sus tratos con el jefe Corcoran, sus conversaciones con el agente coordinador de Corcoran "Alfonso", les ha dicho él de la cuenta de banco que Corcoran le ha puesto, para beneficio de FORTUNY, en el Chase Bank de Nueva York para que FORTUNY, una vez la ira de los guatemaltecos le haya forzado a huir, pueda estar seguro de una vida fácil como recompensa por los servicios que él actualmente está prestando a la

~~SECRET~~

United Fruit Co.

Yo estoy seguro que ustedes no saben de estas cobardes traiciones a nuestra causa y estoy todavía convencido que la mayoría de ustedes son revolucionarios honestos, dedicados a la causa de Lenin, Stalin y Malenkov. Pero el hecho de que ustedes hayan elegido y mantenido en los puestos más importantes a traidores como FORTUNY me indica que ustedes son enteramente deficientes en su obligación como revolucionarios de vigilar -- lo cual, en las palabras de nuestro inolvidable líder y maestro, Stalin, es "la base de hierro sin la cual el partido comunista no podrá siquiera comenzar a realizar su histórica tarea".

Yo les ruego que purgen al partido de traidores como FORTUNY y sus cómplices: Yo estoy seguro de que nuestros camaradas soviéticos rápidamente les ayudarán en esta vital tarea para que ustedes puedan llevar al partido de nuevo por el camino recto hacia una victoriosa revolución soviética a través de las Américas. A menos que ustedes hagan esto, mi conciencia me impide el permanecer en un partido que tiene a su cabeza un agente imperialista como FORTUNY.

¡Larga Vida al Universal Partido Comunista!

¡Larga Vida a la Lucha por la Liberación de las Américas!

Open Letter to the Central Committee of the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo, 7ª Calle 2 - 22, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Comrades,

When you founded the Communist Party of Guatemala four years ago, I was among the first to join: having studied the great works of Marx and Lenin in my student years and having actively participated in communist student activities in more than one country under the glorious leadership of our Soviet comrades in the Communist Youth International, I welcomed the establishment of a Guatemalan branch of Stalin's world - wide party from the depth of my heart. I was enthusiastic about the assignment which our Soviet comrades had outlined for us, making Guatemala the advance guard for the liberation of the workers and peasants of Latin America and for the revolutionary fight against the deadly grip of North American imperialism. I did my very best to assist our party in this vital campaign.

Nevertheless, today I am forced to resign from the party and I shall explain to you frankly my reasons for this grave step. The main reasons lie in the person of your Secretary General, Senor Jose Manuel FORTUNY Arana. After what I have learned about him, I can no longer call him a comrade.

Has anybody ever bothered to investigate the past of FORTUNY, as a revolutionary party must do even in the case of its lowliest member? If you had, you would have found that he had been employed in 1941-1942 by the "Press Section" of the British Legation: as every communist knows, the press sections in the embassies of imperialist countries are nothing but thinly disguised espionage centers and the people whom they employ locally are selected for the most nefarious jobs of spying and of diversionary sabotage against any revolutionary movement.

From this job as a British agent provocateur, Fortuny "advanced" to employment by Sterling Products Inc., the U.S. controlled drug monopoly. Like so many imperialist mercenaries, he switched from British to U.S. employment as soon as he realized that the North American capitalists and their government have wrung leadership from their British competitors.

At Sterling Products Inc., Fortuny's boss was David Corcoran whose brother Thomas was once one of President Roosevelt's brain trusters -- but who in the meantime has turned into one of the worst imperialist reactionaries. Moreover, Corcoran is now the mastermind who commands the fight of the United Fruit Company against the people of Guatemala and against the agrarian reform which our party has sponsored.

Comrades, do you now understand why this agrarian reform has proceeded so slowly, why there have been so many fierce words and so few revolutionary deeds, why our coffee still goes to Yankee coffee dealers, permitting them hugh profits instead of satisfying the fraternal needs of the people of the Soviet Union? Has Fortuny reported to you his deals with boss Corcoran, his talks with Corcoran's liaison agent "Alfonso," did he tell you about the bank account which Corcoran has set up,

for FORTUNY's benefit, at the Chase Bank in New York so that FORTUNY, once the wrath of the people of Guatemala has driven him to flight, may be sure of an easy living as the reward for the services which he is rendering the United Fruit Co. now?

I am sure you don't know about these dastardly betrayals of our cause and I am still convinced that most of you are honest revolutionaries, dedicated to the cause of Lenin, Stalin and Malenkov. But the fact that you elected and maintained in your top office a traitor like FORTUNY indicates to me that you are entirely deficient in your duty of revolutionary vigilance -- which, in the words of our unforgettable leader and teacher, Stalin, is "the iron foundation without which the communist party cannot even begin to fulfil its historic task".

I beg you to purge the party of traitors like FORTUNY and his accomplices: I am sure that our Soviet comrades will readily assist you in this vital task so that you may bring the party back onto the right path towards a victorious Soviet Revolution throughout all the Americas. Unless you do that, however, my conscience forbids me to remain in a party which has an imperialist agent like FORTUNY at its head.

Long live the world communist party!

Long live the struggle for the liberation of the Americas!